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FROM: Helsinki

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 173, September 5, 4 p.m.

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 173; REPEATED INFORMATION MOSCOW 21, STOCKHOLM, OSLO, COPENHAGEN UNNUMBERED

Significant excerpt of final Khrushchev-Kekkonen communique.

QUOTE

Negative view taken on measures done or planned which, by increasing armaments and widening dissemination in or outside Europe, would render achievement disarmament more difficult while increasing dangers inherent present situation.

President and chairman (Khrushchev) expressed firm intention do all within their power to keep northern Europe outside field international tension and controversy.

At initiative President, there was thorough exchange views re commercial relations between Finland-Soviet Union. In this connection, President set forth Finnish view means by which commercial and economical relations between two countries be further developed in view founding of EFTA.

Chairman stated views would be examined most closely by Soviets. Chairman set forth negative attitude Soviet Union to Western special economic associations which acquiring more pronounced politicalcharacter. Soviets have, however, noted with satisfaction Finland does not wish abandon implementation principles MFN treatment which in force between Finland

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between Finland and Soviet Union and that Soviet Union, understanding Finland's desires maintain ability compete Western markets, prepared negotiate with Finland measures which could be taken maintain and further develop exchange goods between Finland and Soviet Union. In event Finland wishes make special commercial agreement with EFTA, negotiations will be held Moscow latter part November.

In this connection, invitation issued President Kekkonen make official visit USSR. Invitation accepted.

END SUMMARY

Initial editorial comment on communique and visit:

Independent HELSINGIN SANOMAT said "would have been better to drop statement on armament plans in Europe or outside since Finland's neutrality presupposes Finland outside big power conflicts." Paper approved explanations expressed re peaceful north Europe, since statement "did not mention individual flash-points (i.e., at Norway and Denmark) as did Khrushchev speech Saturday night (Embassy telegram 165). Paper feels "question EFTA appears have favorable solution."

Conservative UUSI SUOMI notes communique gives visit more official character than Kekkonen visit Leningrad January, 1959. Statement re northern Europe "must be seen against background of warning to Denmark and Norway." In finding language on EFTA ambiguous, paper, however, expresses "pleasure at understanding USSR towards Finland's intention maintain competition in Western market" but regrets solution postponed to late November.

Swedish language HUFVUDSTADET echos UUSI SUOMI views and notes progress made from "state of uncertainty" re EFTA, but says "all obstacles not yet removed."

SOSIALI DEMOKRAATTI

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-3- 173, September 5, 4 p.m., from Helsinki

SOSIALI DEMOKRAATTI felt Khrushchev's speech Saturday moderate in tone since he refrained attack Western leaders. Paper believes Soviet Union "intends rebuild bridges to West." Sees talks arranged Moscow in November principal substantive decision of visit.

Left-wing SD opposition PAIVAN SANOMAT found international character Saturday speech natural and expressed understanding Soviets concern that Passikivi-Kekkonen line be followed without deviation.

Communist KANSAN UUTISET enlarged on Khrushchev's statement on antipathetical Finnish personalities (Embassy telegram 169) by asserting Soviets have right to be on guard against Finnish anti-Communist circles.

SESSIONS

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